GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:662
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
DEATH DUE TO SNAKE BITES AND MONKEY BITES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people die due to snake bites and monkey bites in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether essential medicines and special arrangements for treatment are not available;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount spent by the Government on treatment as well as medicines for snake bites and monkey bites during the last two years;

(f) the steps taken by the Government for treatment of people suffering from snake and monkey bites; and

(g) the progress made so far as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) & (b) As per the data compiled by Central bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the number of deaths due to snake bite in the country, is 1502 in the year 2005 and 1114 in 2006. Though data regarding number of deaths due to monkey bites is not separately maintained, however monkey is the second most common biting animal after dogs responsible for affliction of rabies. The number of deaths due to rabies is 274 in the year 2005 and 361 in 2006.

(c) to (g) Health is a State subject. Therefore it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to ensure availability of Anti snake venom serum, Anti rabies vaccine and proper treatment for the patients of snake bites and monkey bites.

The Government of India extends technical support and guidelines for the prevention and management of animal bite cases, including those of monkey bites. The treatment protocol for snakebites has also been finalized for dissemination to all stakeholders, State Governments for effective treatment of snakebites.

In addition, a pilot project for prevention and control of human rabies has been initiated under New Initiatives in the XI Five Year Plan.